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26 October 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DIA, JCS and DOS review(s) completed.

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Haiti: Rumors that Duvalier is planning another purge of the Haitian armed forces are once again circulating in Port-au-Prince.

According to these rumors, the army chief of staff, his assistant and 11 of his most competent officers, and the pro-US chief of immigration are about to be fired. Such a purge would be the second since April when Duvalier dismissed 63 of his best trained officers.

The US army attaché does not believe that a coup is as imminent as recent rumors indicate. He feels that they are inspired by Duvalier to keep whatever internal opposition that remains off balance.

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South Vietnam: US military authorities in South Vietnam now feel that the Viet Cong weapon allegedly seen recently by an anti-Communist source in Kien Giang Province was not a 37-mm. antiaircraft gun. Further interrogation of the source resulted in an inconsistent and contradictory report revising the original dimensions of the supposed weapon. At present, US military authorities are unable to determine the nature of the gun, and believe it possible that the object reported was not a weapon.

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Common Market: Ambassador Tuthill reports that there has been no abatement during the past two weeks in the circulation of rumors asserting that the US wants to delay GATT negotiations until after the 1964 presidential elections. Tuthill believes the situation has now deteriorated to such an extent that the US negotiating position is becoming compromised, and suggests that the timetable for the "Kennedy Round" of tariff negotiations may be in jeopardy.

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Panama. A strike of banana workers against the United Fruit Company in western Panama seems imminent and may trigger violence by leftist extremists. The workers are said to possess some arms as well as sufficient food and money for a prolonged strike. There are also indications that leftist students, reportedly in contact with union leaders, may stage sympathy demonstrations in Panama City which could lead to violent outbreaks.

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